

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 402

Approved May 8, 1975

RESOLVED, that the Providence Health Centers, Inc.,
is requested to initiate a Federal Hill Health Center.

IN CITY COUNCIL
MAY 1 1975

READ AND PASSED

Robert D. Epton
PRES.
Vincent Vespa
CLERK

APPROVED
MAYOR
Vincent A. Cianci
MAY 8 1975

Councilman Meola
and
Councilman Churchill

IN CITY COUNCIL

READ AND PASSED

BY _____

City Clerk

Adrenal Hill Health Center

of registered patients — 1250[✓]

of contact patients — 300

2 weekly doctor visits — 700

Weekly doctor visits — 44

Patients seen by physicians — 3
nursing

Physicians staff consisted of:

2 internists

1 podiatrist

1 dermatologist

1 pediatrician

* Other services provided:

Well Child Conferences

Nutrition & Diet Therapy

Social Services

Family Planning

* These services were provided on a daily basis and are not included in the above figures regarding physicians services.

Quas in City of Providence where
health centers exist:

Rap Point - 1
Smith Hill - 1
West End - 1
Hartford Park - 1
Mantons - Joslin - 1
South Prov. - 3
Federal Hill - 0

The services provided by center
where it existed on Federal Hill
were utilized to the fullest extent.

April 16, 1975

Board of Directors
Providence Health Centers, Inc.
469 Angell Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02906

Dear Sirs:

During the past several months, a most serious and perplexing problem concerning a large percentage of residents requiring health services in the Federal Hill area has been brought to our attention.

The problem specifically relates to the Providence Health Center's decision to consolidate their health delivery facilities to service larger geographical areas as opposed to the neighborhood concept of health delivery services. The resulting affect of the closing down of the Federal Hill Health Center which was located on Atwells Avenue has been a dramatic decrease of medical services to residents of the Federal Hill area.

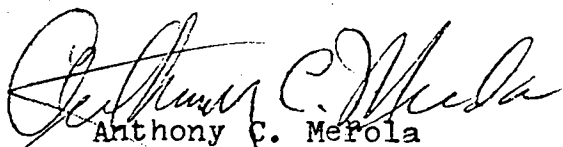
To illustrate the impact of the health center's decision to close the Federal Hill operation, it is our understanding that the Federal Hill Health Center was servicing approximately 1200 patients per month. At the present time, from the best information available, less than 60 residents of the Federal Hill area are receiving medical services at the new facility located on Cranston Street. The decline in health services to the residents of the Federal Hill area is in excess of ninety per cent (90 %) and when we relate this to individuals who are not receiving medical services, the individual count is well over 1100 per month.

One can argue that the Providence Health Centers have taken the initiative and with the approval of the Federal Government have constructed a modern health facility to service eligible residents within that facility's geographical area of service. No question that the governing body of the Providence Health Center's decision to close the neighborhood facility was made in good conscience, their ultimate goal being quality health services for all eligible participants. However, no matter how comprehensive the design of a health program, the ultimate criteria for success or failure will be primarily judged by its ability to service that segment of the population which is in most need. If it fails in its delivery of service to all residents, then, no matter how grandiose the program, it can only be deemed a failure.

Page two
Prov. Health Centers
April 16, 1975

On behalf of the residents of Federal Hill and the entire city of Providence who are in need of health services but for one reason or another cannot avail themselves of these regional health centers, we are petitioning the Board of Directors of the Providence Health Centers to reestablish the neighborhood health centers in the Federal Hill area and throughout the city of Providence.

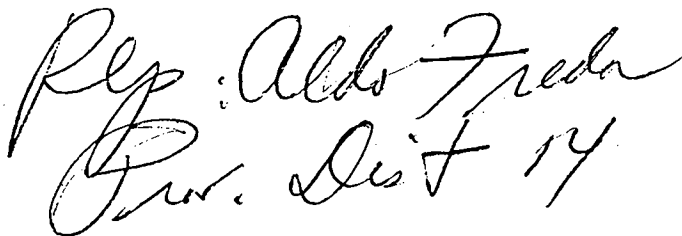
Respectfully submitted,


Anthony C. Merola
Councilman, 13th Ward



Mario Turchetta
Councilman, 13th Ward

cc: Mr. M. J. Martinez, Acting Director, Providence Health Centers


Rep. Aldo Freda
Prov. Dist 14

April 16, 1975

Mr. M. J. Martinez
Acting Director
Providence Health Centers, Inc.
469 Angell Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02906

Dear Mr. Martinez:

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The problem specifically relates to the Providence Health Center's decision to consolidate their health delivery facilities to service larger geographical areas as opposed to the neighborhood concept of health delivery services. The resulting affect of the closing down of the Federal Hill Health Center which was located on Atwells Avenue has been a dramatic decrease of medical services to residents of the Federal Hill area.

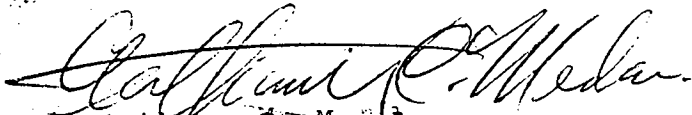
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M.J. Martinez
April 16, 1975


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Respectfully submitted,


Anthony C. Merola
Councilman, 13th Ward


Mario Turchetta
Councilman, 13th Ward

cc: Board of Directors, Providence Health Centers, Inc.


Rep. Aldo Frezza
Prov. Dist 14

Health Squeeze

The federal government's readiness to strengthen the highly successful program of neighborhood health care in Providence is praiseworthy, but the plan to pursue that goal by reducing the number of centers from 10 to 5 is highly dubious and has drawn understandable criticism from Federal Hill state and local legislators.

When the program was set up, the basic purpose was twofold. Health care services were to be made available to hundreds of adults and children who might otherwise go without medical help. But the great attraction for many individuals and families was the successful effort to make those services available in the immediate neighborhoods where need was greatest.

Before the centers were opened, the only way many a poor family or individual could get needed help was to hire taxi service to go to and from a hospital clinic. The time consumed and money spent on travel often combined to discourage visits, and ailments went untended that could adversely affect an ailing person for a long time.

The opening of the neighborhood centers ended the travel-and-money problem for thousands. A child could be bundled up and carried a few blocks to a center in the immediate neighborhood; there was the assurance that an ailing adult or child would not have to travel far or wait long to get needed help in time of illness.

Now the plan is to reduce the number of centers so that better care and more sophisticated services can be made available. There is no doubt that a broader spectrum of services could be provided in larger quarters and even perhaps that more people might be served if staffs of the new facilities were strengthened.

But Rep. Aldo Freda, Democrat of Providence and a member of the state House of Representatives, spoke for himself and five other political figures on Federal Hill when he declared "vigorous and unalterable" opposition to the consolidation proposal. The center at Federal Hill quite clearly has earned the support of community leaders.

Could not the neighborhood concept be preserved by using two or three of existing facilities as regional centers where more space could be found and a broader variety of services made available? Persons calling at smaller neighborhood centers could be referred to the regional centers if those expanded centers had services not available at the neighborhood centers.

Improving and strengthening the neighborhood medical care program is a highly desirable goal, but must that purpose reduce the accessibility of the centers—a feature that has contributed to their successful operation? Surely there must be room for compromise that will permit improvement of services without adversely affecting the pattern of relationships that has sprung up under the original system.

editorial

PROVIDENCE, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1972

BULLETIN 2-25-72 P. 33 Agency Backs Effort to Retain Health Center

The Federal Hill Incentive Corporation, the neighborhood anti-poverty unit, today endorsed the effort of state legislators from the area to retain the Federal Hill neighborhood health center on Atwells Avenue.

On Monday, Rep. Aldo Freda reported he had protested to the Boston regional director of the Office of Economic Opportunity against a consolidation plan to cut the number of centers from 10 to only five and eliminate the Atwells Avenue center.

Mario Turchetta, chairman of the neighborhood organization, pledged the group's wholehearted support in the move to keep the center. He said the facility has been a "blessing" to the people of the area for the last five years.

Mr. Turchetta said that most of the health center patrons are poor or elderly and cannot afford to pay for transportation to other areas when they require medical attention.

Neighborhood residents, he added, have come to know and rely upon the physicians and nurses and need their services. Forcing them to go elsewhere, he asserted, would work a hardship on Federal Hill residents.